

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2622

CINCPAC FOR POLAD, ICA FOR EA

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SUBJ: PROVINCIAL OBSERVATIONS; LANCHOU, URUMCHI, AND TURFAN
1. SUMMARY. USLO OFFICER TRAVELING TO LANCHOU, URUMCHI
AND TURFAN AUG 16-21 VISITED THE LANCOU OIL REFINERY,
LANCHOU UNIVERSITY, SINKIANG UNIVERSITY AND LOCAL COMMUNES.
OFFICIALS AT LANCHOU AND SINKIANG UNIVERSITIES
SAID THAT THEY ARE NOW SELECTING STUDENTS TO SEND TO THE
UNITED STATES. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS ASKED FOR INFORMATION
AND MATERIALS ABOUT THE US EDUCATION SYSTEM.
LANCHOU REFINERY OFFICIALS TOLD USLO OFFICER THAT THERE
ARE SEVERAL FIGURES FOR CHINA'S TOTAL OIL PRODUCTION BUT
THEY PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT TOTAL PRODUCTION REACHED
80 MILLION METRIC TONS IN 1977. NO UNUSUAL POLITICAL
ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED. END SUMMARY.
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2. USLO OFFICER VISITED LANCHOU IN KANSU PROVINCE
AND URUMCHI IN SINKIANG PROVINCE AUGUST 16-21.
USLO OFFICER WAS ALSO GIVEN PERMISSION BY SINKIANG
AUTHORITIES TO VISIT TURFAN, THREE HOURS BY CAR
SOUTHEAST OF URUMCHI. PERMISSION WAS GRANTED EVEN
THOUGH TURFAN IS STILL FORMALLY NOT OPEN TO FOREIGN

TOURISTS. A SINKIANG FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THE TRIP WAS MADE TO "PROMOTE THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE CHINESE AND AMERICAN PEOPLES."

3. LANCHOU, AUGUST 16-18. USLO OFFICER WAS TOLD THAT THE CITY HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY OPEN TO FOREIGN TOURISTS SINCE MAY. NO UNUSUAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED IN THE CITY. ON AUGUST 16, MIG-19S WERE TAKING OFF FROM THE LANCHOU AIRPORT, LOCATED 70 KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE CITY, ABOUT 30 MIG-19S AND TWO MIG-17S WERE PARKED ON THE FIELD. THE PLANES WERE COVERED BY CANVAS. USLO OFFICER VISITED THE LANCHOU OIL REFINERY AND OFFICIALS STATED THAT THE REFINERY PROCESSED 2 MILLION METRIC TONS OF CRUDE OIL IN 1977. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEY PLAN TO RAISE CAPACITY TO 5 MILLION METRIC TONS BY 1985. CRUDE OIL IS SHIPPED BY RAIL FROM THE YUMEN AND K'O-LA-MA-I (ARAMAI) OIL FIELDS. REFINERY OFFICIALS SAID THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL FIGURES FOR TOTAL CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION IN THE PRC BUT THEY DID NOT KNOW THE OFFICIAL FIGURE. THEY SAID THEY PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT TOTAL PRODUCTION REACHED 80 MILLION TONS IN 1977. USLO OFFICER ALSO MET WITH OFFICIALS AT LANCHOU UNIVERSITY AND WAS TOLD THAT STUDENTS ARE NOW BEING CHOSEN FOR OVERSEAS STUDY. LANCHOU UNIVERSITY PLANS TO SEND "SEVERAL TENS" OF STUDENTS OVERSEAS, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS THIS WINTER. USLO OFFICER ALSO VISITED THEYEN-TAN PEOPLE'S COMMUNE. CONFIDENTIAL

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LANCHOU HAS HAD UNSEASONABLY HEAVY RAINS IN THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. WITHIN ONE 24 HOUR PERIOD, LANCHOU RECEIVED 90 MILLIMETERS OF RAIN. SEVERAL ROADS WERE WASHED OUT, INCLUDING THE ROAD TO THE LUCHIA DAM.

3. URUMCHI, AUG 18-21. USLO OFFICER VISITED A LOCAL CARPET FACTORY AND SINKIANG UNIVERSITY. URUMCHI, WHICH HAS APPARENTLY BEEN JUST OPENED FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS, DOES NOT HAVE A BRANCH OF THE CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE. USLO OFFICER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ABDULLA A MANDARIN SPEAKING UGHUR FROM THE SINKIANG FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICE. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THERE ARE NO COMPETENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS IN SINKIANG. USLO OFFICER TALKED BRIEFLY

WITH CHANG TUNG-YUEH, THE PRESIDENT OF SINKIANG UNIVERSITY. CHANG SAID THAT SINKIANG UNIVERSITY PLANS TO SEND STUDENTS TO GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE END OF 1978. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE STUDENTS TENTATIVELY SELECTED FOR OVERSEAS STUDY ARE NOW TAKING LANGUAGE EXAMS. NO UNUSUAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED IN THE CITY EXCEPT FOR SEVERAL UNDECIPHERABLE WALLPOSTERS WRITTEN IN ARABIC SCRIPT. A MINOR DISPLAY OF DISAPPROVAL OF HAN DOMINATION WAS OBSERVED DURING A MINORITIES SONG AND DANCE

PERFORMANCE. WHENEVER SONGS SUCH AS "THE EAST IS RED" AND "ODE TO CHAIRMAN HUA" WERE SUNG IN LOCAL DIALECTS AND SET TO TRADITIONAL MUSIC,

THE AUDIENCE DID NOT RESPOND OR ONLY A FEW CLAPPED. HOWEVER, TRADITIONAL SONGS WERE VERY ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLAUDED. SAIFUDIN'S NAME WAS ONLY MENTIONED ONCE. A LOCAL OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE FORMER REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN HAD BEEN "PROMOTED" TO THE CENTER.

4. TURFAN, AUGUST 19 20. TURFAN IS LOCATED 180 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF URMCHI, ABOUT THREE HOURS BY CAR ACROSS THE DESERT. THE OASIS IS NOTED FOR ITS GRAPES AND MELONS. USLO OFFICER VISITED TWO LOCAL COMMUNES AND THE SITES OF TWO ANCIENT CITIES ALONG THE SILK ROUTE. THE POPULATION IN TURFAN IS OVERWHELMINGLY UIGHUR AND A UIGHUR/MANDARIN INTERPRETER WAS PRESENT AT ALL MEETINGS. CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ON THE COMMUNES WERE OCCUPIED BY MINORITY MEMBERS -- MOSLEM AND UIGHUR. NEWS TRAVELS SLOWLY TO TURFAN. WHEN ONE COMMUNE LEADER WAS ASKED ABOUT THE NEW STATE CONSTITUTION, HE INQUIRED "WHAT'S

A CONSTITUTION?"

5. HAWKIN WAS SEEN IN ALL THREE CITIES. IN TURFAN AND URMCHI, LOCALLY CONTROLLED "FREE MARKETS" WERE OPERATING. IN URMCHI, USLO OFFICER SAW A BEGGAR WHO WAS SITTING ON THE FIRST FLOOR STAIRS OF A DEPARTMENT STORE. NEVERTHELESS, PEOPLE IN LANCHOU AND

IN SINKIANG APPEARED WELL-FED AND STORES AND FOOD STALLS WERE WELL-STOCKED WITH SUPPLIES.

6. ICA ENGLISH TEACHING MATERIALS WERE GIVEN TO OFFICIALS AT LANCHOU AND SINKIANG UNIVERSITIES. OFFICIALS WERE GRATEFUL AND ASKED IF USLO HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT US UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS ARE BEING ASKED TO EXPRESS PREFERENCES FOR CERTAIN UNIVERSITIES

OVERSEAS FOR THEIR STUDENTS. USLO OFFICER TOLD THE OFFICIALS THAT

THE US GOVERNMENT WAS NOW PREPARING A BOOKLET AND PROMISED TO SEND THEM MATERIALS ABOUT STUDY IN THE US.

THOMAS

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